



Carlos Jackson
Executive Director

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
of the County of Los Angeles**

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Gloria Molina
Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Zev Yaroslavsky
Don Knabe
Michael D. Antonovich
Commissioners

September 11, 2007

Honorable Board of Commissioners
Community Development Commission of the
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Commissioners:

**APPROVAL OF FUNDS FOR SERVICE COSTS FOR THE UNITED STATES
VETERANS INITIATIVE - LONG BEACH HOMELESS MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT
IN THE CITY OF LONG BEACH (4)
(3 Vote)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the approval of funding for the project service costs at 2280 Williams Avenue on the grounds of the Century Villages at Cabrillo is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because the proposed activities will not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to draft and execute a Grant Agreement with United States Veterans Initiative - Long Beach, in the total amount of \$400,000 in County General Funds (CGF) from the Fourth Supervisorial District, to fund homeless services for homeless veterans with severe mental disabilities through a program called the Homeless Mental Health Project (HMHP), following receipt of funds from Chief Executive Office and approval of the Grant Agreement by County Counsel, and execution by all parties. Approve the transfer of these funds to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) for disbursement to United States Veterans Initiative – Long Beach.



PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

The purpose of the recommended action is to transfer project funds to LAHSA to provide funding to the United States Veterans Initiative – Long Beach to support homeless services customized for mentally ill homeless veterans on the grounds of the Villages at Cabrillo in the City of Long Beach, where they will expand their services to 50-60 homeless veterans each year. The project will be administered pursuant to an Interagency Agreement between the Commission and LAHSA.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The actions described herein will be funded with a portion of the \$20.0 million in CGF approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 20, 2005, to fund the construction and/or renovation of year-round emergency shelters and enhancements to the homeless support services system. On November 22, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved the allocation of \$3.6 million of these funds to each Supervisorial District and allowed a 10% administrative fee, in the total amount of \$2.0 million, to be reserved by the Commission for projects.

The proposed Grant Agreement with the U.S. Veterans Initiative – Long Beach will allocate \$400,000 for homeless services specifically tailored for homeless veterans. The expansion of these services will be located in a currently vacant building at 2280 Williams Avenue on the grounds of the Century Villages at Cabrillo, a former Navy base that houses different programs for homeless individuals and families.

The \$400,000 in CGF, allocated to the Fourth Supervisorial District, are included in the Commission's approved Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

In order to address the staggering numbers of homeless individuals and families and the corresponding critical shortage of beds in Los Angeles County, on June 20, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved allocation of \$20.0 million for the construction and/or renovation of year-round emergency shelters and enhancements to the homeless support services systems.

On November 22, 2005, the Board of Supervisors directed the Commission to administer the funding and oversee all of the projects. The Board also instituted a method by which each Board Office selects recipients of these funds based on agency experience and the need for homeless services in the community, among other considerations.

The proposed transfer of funds from the Commission to LAHSA is a total of \$400,000 in CGF allocated to the Fourth Supervisorial District. LAHSA will then transfer the funds to the United States Veterans Initiative – Long Beach for homeless supportive services such as case management, life skills, money management, and other services to improve the lives of 50 to 60 people each year. The transfer of funds to LAHSA will be effective following the Commission's receipt of funds from the CEO.

A complete description of the US Veterans Initiative – Long Beach is provided as Attachments A and B.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:

The proposed activities are exempt from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) pursuant to 24 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 58, Section 58.34 (a)(4), because they involve public service activities that will not have a physical impact or result in any physical changes to the environment. The activities are also not subject to the provisions of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines 15060(c)(3) and 15378, because they are not defined as a project under CEQA and do not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

IMPACT ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

Approval of these actions will allow for an increase in transitional housing, emergency beds and services available for homeless veterans in the Long Beach area of the County.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLOS JACKSON
Executive Director

Attachments: 2

ATTACHMENT A
UNITED STATES VETERANS INITIATIVE - LONG BEACH
HOMELESS MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

United States Veterans Initiative is a private nonprofit corporation established in 1992 to address the unmet needs of homeless veterans. The United States Veterans Initiative – Long Beach is situated on the grounds of the Century Villages at Cabrillo, a 26 acre former Navy base which is home to programs for residential substance use treatment, job reentry, dual diagnosis, and rental assistance for disabled and senior veterans. This arrangement is designed to address the multiple needs of Long Beach’s homeless veteran community by helping to break the cycle of homelessness.

The United States Veterans Initiative – Long Beach is proposing the Homeless Mental Health Program (HMHP) to be located in the 31st building at the Villages at Cabrillo, at 2280 Williams Avenue. This building is currently not occupied due to lack of funding for the HMHP. The building is large enough to support two separate programs, so one half of the building will be occupied by a program serving homeless youth. The remaining half of the building is available for United States Veterans Initiative – Long Beach to expand their services to include the HMHP. This program will serve homeless, mentally ill veterans and also add 10 new beds. These expansion beds will be used to provide long-term affordable housing for mentally ill homeless veterans contacted through the HMHP. It is a focused outreach program with partial funding by the Department of Mental Health of the County of Los Angeles. The goal of this program is to bring in 50-60 veterans each year.

Clinical staff from the VA and case management staff are located at the Villages at Cabrillo with offices in or in close proximity to the building where the residents will reside at 2280 Williams Avenue. One on one case management and support will be provided with case managers on site from 8 am to 8 pm, 5 days a week, and with resident assistants on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Upon admission to the HMHP, the veteran will meet with a case manager who will conduct a thorough assessment and an Anger and Conflict assessment. From these assessments the case manager will work with the veteran to develop a Benchmarks Action Plan which will focus on addressing specific problems including medical, psychological, alcohol and drug issues, money management, family and social support deficiencies, and legal problems.

Aside from basic life skills, higher education and vocational training, when indicated, can be pursued through a variety of sources at the on-site Career Center, including local industries, Long Beach City College, an Employment Development Department Veterans Representative, VA Vocational Rehabilitation, and the local Workforce Development One-Stop system of the City of Long Beach.

Services Funds	\$400,000
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Total request	\$400,000
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ATTACHMENT B



A PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

June 14, 2007

LaCheryl Porter, Esq.
Project Manager
Housing Development & Preservation
Community Development Commission
2 Coral Circle
Monterey Park, CA 91755

Re: Housing for Mentally Ill veterans at Villages at Cabrillo, Long Beach

Dear Ms. Porter:

The program that U.S.VETS is proposing at Villages at Cabrillo, 2280 Williams St., Long Beach, will add 10 beds of long-term, affordable housing for mentally ill homeless veterans. These veterans have a psychiatric diagnosis, and with regular case management, they can achieve stability and can function on their own. This program is not for the chronically, severely disabled who need 24 hour care. The Action Plan the veteran creates with the case manager at entry includes any doctor or mental health appointments indicated, and regular interaction with the case manager will keep clients on this schedule. The Action Plan also includes therapeutic groups on site. The goal of the program is for the resident to acquire the tools of independent living and the schedule of appointments is to support this overarching goal.

Case managers are on site from 8 am to 8 pm, 5 days a week, with resident assistants on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Program participants will see a case manager as often as needed, but no less than once every two weeks.

There will be virtually no interaction between the youth program and the veterans program. The programs have separate entrances that are constantly monitored by staff, and staff is on site in both programs 24 hours a day. We have nearly 7 years of experience operating Villages at Cabrillo, where multiple populations, veterans, families and youth, are located in close proximity. There have never been any major incidents and only a few minor complaints that were addressed immediately.

As an example of how we address concerns of programs in close proximity, The Salvation Army had concerns about the GLASS Youth program moving next door because they had experience with a similar youth program and felt that the youth population would have a negative impact on their population, which was next door.

GLASS was able to mitigate these concerns by describing the high standards of their program, their client to staff ratio, which is 6 to 1, and the fact that their youth are never left unsupervised day or night.


We have contacted Community Care Licensing to ask whether there were any regulatory issues that would prohibit locating these two programs next to each other. Tira Logan, Licensing Program Manager, responded to this query by stating "The opening of this home will not pose any issues or concerns with CCL".

GLASS has also supported this view, and has offered their endorsement of the program being located next to them, as is verified below by their co-signature of this letter.


As a result of this opinion, and our long experience, we believe that locating this program for veterans in the building next door to the homeless youth program will not pose a risk to either population.

Please contact me with any questions.

Best regards,



Stephen Peck, MSW
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United States Veterans initiative
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Dane Carswell
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